

## NEWDA's Youth 2018 Journey of Learning Event

### Region 4 Youth Development Clinic

Your GMO NEWDA asked if I would look into creating events for our young riders. NEWDA has a total of 29 young riders, of that 29 youth members, 5 are 12 or younger, the remaining 24 range between 13 & 18. On December 10<sup>th</sup> I sent out an email to these young riders to join me in attending Region 4's Youth Development Clinic on January 20 -21. Your NEWDA officers had voted to support any NEWDA youth going to this clinic with me. Through our Gale Angel Fund youth attending would have their expenses paid to attend the Clinic. When it came time to attend the clinic I had received notice from two of our youth that they wanted to go with me. Jaelyn Pantti & Bonnie Clemons, Jaelyn was unable to attend due to the fact she came down with the flue that week. So off to the Clinic I went with Bonnie. I am glad I went with Bonnie as we drove to the clinic and talked about our horses I found she and I had many things in common despite the 47 years differences in our age. Love of horses and working with them will do that to you.

So, what did I think of the Clinic? The clinic flyer they sent out said riders for the clinic should be ages 10-21 years old, riding level Training and up. There were 7 young riders ages 14 to 18 showing at 3<sup>rd</sup> level and up, all were very nice riders. Three of the riders offered something that I felt Bonnie, myself and most of NEWDA's young riders could relate to. One rider showing at third level had not been working with her current mount very long, she and her horse needed tools to become a working team. I was not impressed with the way the Clinician worked with her. The Clinician hopped on her horse for the next 20-30 minutes worked at the other end of the arena with little communication going on between the rider and clinician on what was happening. I got the feeling this rider was being written off. Another rider was riding a more high-strung horse that was having a hard time relaxing. I would have like more insight from the Clinician on how to help this rider and horse to work toward Relaxation. The final rider that offered hope to riders like myself, Bonnie and many of the Pony Club riders I do work with, was riding what looked like a 15.2 grade Quarter Horse named Charlie Brown. Charlie Brown was a rescue horse who is now starting to showing at I-1. Unlike most of the other horses Charlie had a heavy winter coat with a body clipping to help him deal with the heated arena we were in. All of the other riders were beautiful riders on very big dressage style horses. Charlie did not have their presence but he did seem to enjoy his job and did it very well, giving hope to Bonnie and I for our Backyard Beauties.

I can't imagine what this clinician would have done if 10-year olds on Training level horses had shown up.

This clinic I felt was more a recruiting event for NAJYRC & FEI Junior/Young Riders. In my opinion the Clinician gave more attention to riders that showed her more protentional to be members of these programs. To get to this level it takes a lot of dedication on the part of the riders and their families. The next thing it takes is a lot of money. Thank goodness, we have these riders, their families and sponsors, these will be our future trainers. But for most of us this level is just not what we need or want or maybe can reach.

During the lunch lecture time which was more like a sales pitch to the riders the Clinician thought had potential, the subject of cost/money came up and she was quick to say "maybe we could add an extra

charge to show registrations that would go to the Young Rider programs". I thought, "I do not show at Recognized show do to the fact that they are already very pricey and now you going to throw some more cost my way" what a turn off I thought.

I want to try again and create an event for your young riders If it is another clinic I will research it further before picking it. I am glad I went to this clinic, I learned a lot, some about riding, some about Young Rider Program, some about creating an event for you, but most of all I have a new friend in Bonnie Clemons.

Jackie Devcich  
Northeast Chapter of NEWDA  
Youth Activity Coordinator